

Town of Mansfield Parking Steering Committee for Storrs Center and Meeting of the signatories of the COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT for Parking Enforcement in and adjacent to Storrs Center Development, Mansfield, CT

**Special Meeting
Tuesday, January 26, 2016
Mansfield Downtown Partnership Office
23 Royce Circle**

5:00 PM

Minutes

Members Present: Karla Fox (Chair), Dwight Atherton, Dennis Stanavage, Mike Taylor

Ex-Officio Members and Staff Present: John Carrington, Matt Hart, Matt Joyce (by phone), Debbie Lastro (by phone), and Cynthia van Zelm

1. Call to Order

Chair Karla Fox called the meeting to order at 5:11 pm.

2. Remarks from the Chair

Ms. Fox said the parking will continue to be dynamic before the downtown is fully built out.

3. Old Business

➤ **Discussion of Enforcement of Parking in Downtown**

Cynthia van Zelm presented an overview of what the main parking issues appear to be and some of the steps taken to address these issues.

She said the main issues currently appear to be 1) the amount of Town staff time to process ticket appeals, and 2) the encroachment of parking on to private parking lots. She said she has been meeting and will continue to meet with Town staff on the appeals issue. With respect to the enforcement in private lots, particularly, Storrs Commons, Mike Taylor has put up new signage at all four entrances and exits to his property so that visitors are aware that they cannot park in his lot unless they are utilizing the businesses in Storrs Commons; and he purchased vests that indicate that his parking constables have the ability to enforce parking on his lot. Ms. van Zelm said the Oaks and Bill Kerensky with Leyland, have notified their tenants to not park in Storrs Commons unless they are patronizing those businesses. Ms. van Zelm said she also passed this message along to the Storrs Center businesses who attended the monthly merchant meeting last week. Finally, Ms. van Zelm said the Traffic Authority voted this

morning to change the 2 hour parking spaces on Storrs Road in front of the high school to 30 minutes. Ms. van Zelm will prepare a press release once the new signs are up on the street.

Matt Joyce said he can send an e-mail notice to Wilder's tenants.

Mr. Taylor said he believes e-mails notices have to go out every semester to remind people about where they can park.

Mr. Taylor referred to an e-mail he sent to Ms. van Zelm earlier in the day that responded to further suggestions from Ms. van Zelm and Town staff about other ways to effectively monitor his lot. Mr. Taylor said he wants to edit and re-send the e-mail.

Mr. Taylor said the e-mails have helped and he has given out less tickets in the last few days. The constables are also giving more warnings now vs. tickets.

Mr. Taylor suggested an article in the student run Daily Campus newspaper about parking. Dwight Atherton said an article could prompt further discussion.

Mr. Atherton said that 2 hour parking allows students to get to class and back to their car before they get ticketed.

Mr. Taylor made the argument again that there is more gross parking needed in the downtown.

Mr. Atherton said UConn has contracted for mobile payment for parking on campus by cell phone. This may be something the Town would want to pursue at some point. He will keep the Committee informed as to whether this proves to work.

Mr. Atherton said UConn is continuing to look at its parking options on campus.

Ms. Lastro said all residents at Main Street Homes will have either a one or two car garage. There is some on-street parking for some residents who have more than one car.

Mr. Taylor said he will be putting a fence up between his property and the Leyland owned property where Dunkin Donuts has its space, to further delineate the properties. He asked if Leyland would share in the cost. Ms. Lastro will follow-up.

John Carrington referred to the winter parking ban and noted that despite notices to Oaks residents, several cars had to be towed on Wilbur Cross Way during the snowstorm this weekend. He suggested that assistance with monitoring overnight would be helpful. Debbie Lastro said she will talk to LAZ Parking about coming in early for a few days to monitor the parking on Wilbur Cross Way, and ticket.

4. New Business

Ms. Fox asked that the descriptions of the mission of the Parking Steering Committee, the Town Traffic Authority, and the Town Transportation Advisory Committee be

provided to the Committee at its next meeting. Briefly, Mr. Hart said the Steering Committee was tasked with developing a parking management plan for Storrs Center. The Transportation Advisory Committee looks at transportation issues for the entire town, with a focus on alternative transportation. The Town Traffic Authority focuses on detailed items such as where to put signage, traffic signals, etc. Ms. van Zelm will provide more information on the various entities at the next meeting. Mr. Carrington will have the Traffic Authority and Transportation Advisory Committee agendas and minutes sent to the Steering Committee.

The Committee discussed the idea of having all the parking on Storrs Road changed from 2 hours to 30 minutes. Ms. van Zelm noted that some of the 2 hour parking is utilized for the Saturday Farmer's Market and for restaurants.

Mr. Taylor asked Mr. Carrington, as staff to the Traffic Authority, to look into a change from 2 hour parking to 30 minute parking at the next Traffic Authority meeting. Perhaps the change is for the week days only.

Dennis Stanavage arrived at the meeting at 5:50 pm.

5. Approval of Minutes from October 22, 2015

Mike Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes from October 22, 2016. Mr. Stanavage seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

6. Cooperative Parking Agreement (two year agreement expires on March 6, 2016)

Ms. van Zelm noted that the two year Cooperative Agreement expires on March 6, 2016. Mr. Taylor said a mechanism to address how property owners get reimbursed for the tickets they write should be included. Ms. van Zelm said she will work on an initial draft for the Committee to review at its next meeting.

7. Discussion of Annual Report

Ms. van Zelm suggested that she work on an initial draft of the annual report for the Committee to review at its next meeting.

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Next Meeting Date

Ms. van Zelm said she will be on vacation for the next scheduled meeting date in April. She will poll Committee members for a date to meet in April.

She said other tentative meeting dates for 2016 are July 20 and October 19.

10. Adjourn

Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Stanavage seconded the motion. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Minutes taken by Cynthia van Zelm.